

Managing crime on Britain's railways

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What is railway crime 1?

- Wide range of criminal incidents with potential to affect safe running and performance of the railway including:
 - Trespass
 - Vandalism
 - Obstructions on the line
 - Trains striking obstructions
 - Stone/missile throwing
 - Graffiti
 - Equipment damage

What is railway crime 2?

- Violence at work
 - Assault, threat or abuse
- Crimes against the person
 - Robbery
 - Sexual offences
 - Assaults on passengers
- Other
 - Fares evasion
 - Ticket fraud
 - Luggage theft
 - Vehicle theft
 - Arson
 - Terrorism

Three key areas

- Can be seen on three broad fronts:
 - Route crime
 - Line of route offences e.g. criminal damage, missile/stone throwing, obstruction etc
 - Station crime
 - Robbery, theft, assault, ticket fraud, public disorder, vehicle theft
 - On-train crime
 - Fares evasion, assault, criminal damage, luggage theft

A problem for all

- Our crime is your crime
- Not just a railway problem
 - Industry partners, regional & local government, local police forces etc.
- Same offences – and offenders – on both sides of the boundary fence
- BUT crime on the railway has the potential for catastrophic incidents
 - Public behaviour = largest contribution to residual train accident risk (46% in 2004)

The cost to the nation?

- Estimated £260m a year
 - 500,000 + minutes delay
 - Damage to rolling stock, infrastructure
 - Crime committed every 90 seconds in peak periods
- What price the human cost?
 - Fatalities, injuries, staff trauma

Trespass

- Up to 27 million offences annually
 - Of which more than 10 million committed by children between 10-16
- Damaged fences and gates left open by the industry can attract children
- Seasonal – peak in summer months and school holidays
 - 1 in 3 children admit to trespassing/vandalising the railway



Vandalism – Pride of the fleet?



Vandalism – a train impaled on a scaffold pole



Industry approach

- Identified need for more focused approach
- Route crime a key target initially
 - Potential for catastrophic incident
- Parallel lessons in other areas of public behaviour
 - Can't work in isolation
 - Now moving towards more over-arching community safety approach

National Railway Crime Group (NRCG)

- Wide membership from across industry
- Strategic direction
- 4 Es
 - Enabling
 - Education
 - Engineering
 - Enforcement
- Now with Evaluation as 'silent' 5th E

Enabling

- Structure
 - NRCG, supported by a national working group and regional groups addressing local issues
- Strategy
- Stakeholder group for research and development
- Facilitated by Rail Safety and Standards Board

Education

- Curriculum led
 - Range of products to suit audience
 - www.trackoff.org
- Diversionary tactics
 - Community-based
 - Geared to youth activities

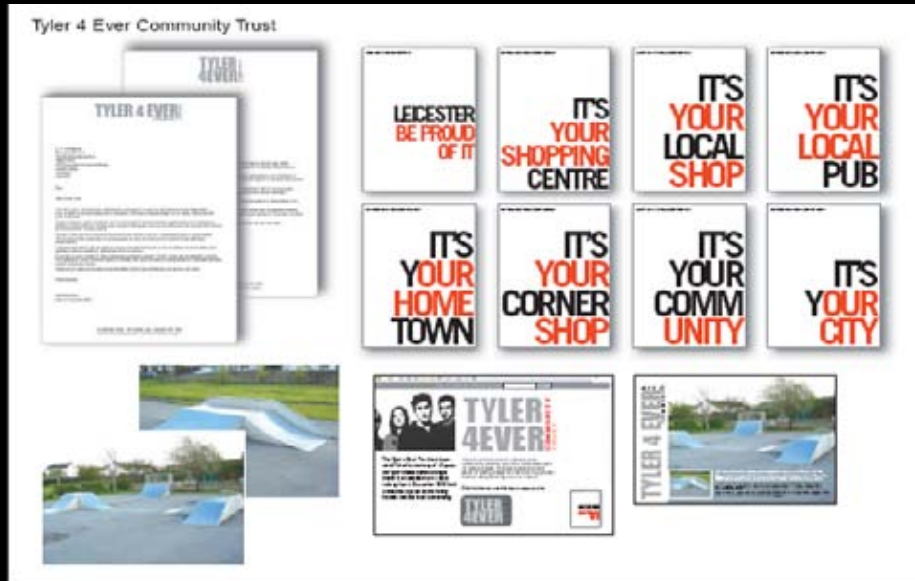


Track Off website – teaching tool

- Accredited by Government's National Grid for Learning
- Order and download of free school materials
- News and general information about railway crime
- Receives up to 250,000 + hits a month with 20,000 + downloads
- Addresses advances in education – e.g. whiteboard technology

The screenshot shows the Track Off website interface. At the top right is the logo. Below it is a navigation bar with links for 'home', 'contact', 'about us', and 'site map'. The main content area features a 'Welcome to Track Off' message, a brief description of the campaign, and a list of partners including the Railway Safety and Standards Board, Network Rail, and the rail unions. A prominent yellow banner advertises a 'win £250' by entering a monthly primary school poster competition. Below this, there are sections for 'Enter our Rail Crime Rap competition' and a grid of resource categories such as 'Facts & figures', 'System map', 'Research', 'Police contacts', 'Consequences', 'Railway history', 'School resources', 'Photofiles', 'Feedback', and 'Links'. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Track Off' logo and a list of menu items including 'facts & figures', 'system map', 'research', 'police contacts', 'consequences', 'railway history', 'railway pioneers', 'railway today', 'glossary', 'competitions', 'school resources', 'photofiles', 'feedback', and 'links'. At the bottom, there are links to 'HSE Railway Safety Statistics Bulletin 2001/02' and 'HSE's Annual Report on the safety record'.

Homing in on local communities



Artworks



Music competition



Engineering

- Removing risk and opportunity
 - Lineside scrap programme
 - 200,000 tonnes moved in past 3 + years
- Designing out the problem
 - Fencing, cable troughing, bridge caging
- Use of CCTV
 - Mobile units
 - Voice-activated



Enforcement

- Deterring, detecting, convicting and punishing offenders
- Role of British Transport Police
- Use of dedicated officers
- Making the punishment fit the crime
- Harnessing the judiciary



Trespass headlines

- Steadily decreased from 2000 to 2004
 - 2004: Lowest number of trespass fatalities – 34
 - 2005: By July had exceeded 2004 by 5 fatalities
- Between 2000-2004 number of near misses fell by 21% (per train mile), constant in 2005
- Decreasing trend to 2004 in rate of youth near misses since 2001 and child near misses since 2000
- Drink a key factor in fatalities at stations

Vandalism headlines

- Steadily decreasing trend from 2000
- Trains running into obstructions down 54% since 2000; further reduction in 2005
- Trains running into serious obstructions down 78% since 2000; further improvement in 2005
- Reportable collisions with objects on the line down 67% in same period; better in 2005
- Number of trains struck by missiles down 35% since 2000; again better in 2005
- Vandalism overall down by more than 33%

Violence at work

- 3,800 reported acts of violence in 2004
 - More than 10 a day
 - Of these 2,000 were physical assaults
 - 6% up on 2003
 - Greater focus on reporting
- Two main locations
 - In stations
 - On trains
- Fare evasion assaults account for 30% of the total
- Main period between 1600 – 2000hrs (31%)
 - Further 25% between 2000hrs – 0200hrs
 - Peak hour between 1800-1900 (8%)

Crimes against the person

- Police recorded 9,890 in 2004
 - Increase of 7% on 2003
- Number of robberies constant for last 3 years (< 2,000)
- Firearms offences down by 28% since 1998
 - Remained constant last year
- Sexual offences = 10% of all violent crime
 - Increased for second year running – up by 13%

Taking lessons forward

- Lessons learned from work of past five years
- Other industry groups now up and running
 - Level crossing safety
 - Rail passenger security group
 - Rail fatality management
- But need to do even more to embrace community safety agenda
 - Partnership is key